

72nd Legislature - 1991
H.R. 22 by Wilson/Laney

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HOUSE RULES

Rule 2 - Employees of the House

1. The list of duties of the committee coordinator is expanded to include functions that are performed by the committee coordinator under current house practices.
(Rule 2, Section 7)
2. Provisions are added to allow the committee coordinator to designate someone to perform the duties of that office in the committee coordinator's absence.
(Rule 2, Section 7; Rule 4, Sections 33(b) and 41)

Rule 3 - Standing Committees

3. Changes to jurisdictions of committees:

(Note: Minor changes to or corrections of the names of state agencies are not discussed in this synopsis)

- a. The Industrial Accident Board was replaced by the Texas Worker's Compensation Commission.
(Rule 3, Section 3)
 - b. The Texas Adult Probation Commission, the Texas Department of Corrections, and the Board of Pardons and Paroles were consolidated into the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.
(Rule 3, Section 5)
 - c. The name of the Texas Department of Labor and Standards was changed to the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation.
(Rule 3, Section 21)
 - d. The Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness was abolished.
(Rule 3, Sections 26 and 32)
 - e. Jurisdiction over matters relating to technology transfer is added to the Committee on Science and Technology.
(Rule 3, Section 31)
 - f. The Automated Information and Telecommunications Council was replaced by the Department of Information Resources.
(Rule 3, Section 31)
 - g. The Texas Indian Commission was abolished.
(Rule 3, Section 32)
 - h. The name of the Texas Aeronautics Commission was changed to the Texas Department of Aviation.
(Rule 3, Section 34)
4. The membership of the Committee on Redistricting is increased from nine members to fifteen members.
(Rule 3, Section 28)

Rule 4 - Organization, Powers, and Duties of Committees

5. A provision is added that will, in the event of a vacancy in a representative district at the time of appointment of standing committees, allow the speaker to designate appointments on behalf of that district by district number.
(Rule 4, Section 2(c))
6. Provisions are added to reflect current house practice that the committee coordinator prepares the regular meeting schedule for standing committees under the direction of the Committee on House Administration.
(Rule 4, Section 9(a))
7. Provisions are added to reflect current house practice that committee meeting notices be posted in accordance with house rules rather than specifically by the chair of the committee and that committee meeting notices during the interim must be posted for five calendar days.
(Rule 4, Section 12)
8. A provision is added to clarify the meaning of "five days" as it relates to the filing of committee minutes and to address the treatment of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays in determining the date by which minutes must be filed.
(Rule 4, Section 19(b))
9. A provision is added to reflect current house practice that the form of the sworn statement for witnesses is prescribed by the committee coordinator, under the direction of the Committee on House Administration.
(Rule 4, Section 21(a))
10. The provisions relating to the criminal justice policy impact statement are removed from the fiscal note section and placed in a separate section. The procedure for the criminal justice policy impact statement is changed to require the chair of a committee (rather than the director of the Legislative Budget Board) to determine when an impact statement is required and to request such a statement from the Legislative Budget Board.
(Rule 4, Sections 34 and 35)
11. Provisions are added relating to the equalized education funding impact statement that is now required under the provisions of S.B. 1 from the 6th Called Session of the 71st Legislature. The procedure is similar to that for fiscal notes and criminal justice policy impact statements.
(Rule 4, Sections 33(b)(5) and 35; Rule 13, Section 1(a)(1)(H))
12. A provision is added that will, during a special session, reduce the time that the Water Commission has to prepare a water development policy impact statement from 30 days to 14 days.
(Rule 4, Section 37(c))

Rule 5 - Floor Procedure

13. A provision is added to create a separate category of excuse for those members attending meetings of committees or conference committees authorized to meet while the house is in session.
(Rule 5, Section 3(c))
14. The provisions requiring a division of the question and a 2/3 membership vote for bills containing dedicated funds are eliminated.
(Rule 5, Section 43(b); Rule 8, Section 19)
15. The time within which a member has to record a vote after a vote is taken is increased from 30 minutes to 1 hour.
(Rule 5, Sections 45(2) and 52; Rule 2, Section 2(1)(N))

Rule 6 - Order of Business and Calendars

16. A provision is added to allow concurrent resolutions applying to Congress for a constitutional convention to be placed on the Constitutional Amendments Calendar.
(Rule 6, Section 7(3))
17. The layout period for a congratulatory and memorial resolutions calendar is reduced from 48 hours to 24 hours, and the procedure for consideration of congratulatory and memorial resolutions is streamlined.
(Rule 6, Sections 11 and 12)
18. The Items Eligible for Consideration list is added as an official house calendar.
(Rule 6, Section 16(b) and (c); Rule 2, Section 1(b)(7))
19. The procedure for recommending bills and resolutions for a local, consent, or resolutions calendar is revised. A standing committee will recommend unanimously that the bill or resolution be sent to the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars, and that committee shall make the determination of which calendar on which to place the bill or resolution.
(Rule 6, Sections 7(5) and (6), 22, and 23; Rule 4, Section 33(b)(7))
20. Bills and resolutions once removed from a local, consent, or resolutions calendar will be sent directly to the Committee on Calendars (rather than back to the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars).
(Rule 6, Section 24)

Rule 8 - Bills

21. For bills relating to a conservation and reclamation district governed by the provisions of Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution, the number of copies that must be filed with the chief clerk is increased from fourteen to fifteen, to allow the chief clerk to forward a copy of such bills directly to the Water Commission for preparation of a water development policy impact statement.
(Rule 8, Section 9(b); Rule 2, Section 1(a)(6))

Rule 9 - Appropriations Bills

22. The reference to Article VII of the general appropriations bill as a nonassignable item is eliminated. The general appropriations bill will have no Article VII this session.
(Rule 9, Section 5(a)(1))
23. The procedure for consideration of agency budgets by the subcommittees for budget and oversight and the Committee on Appropriations is revised. A joint hearing of each subcommittee on budget and oversight (or substantive committee, if applicable) and the Committee on Appropriations will now be required. Additional public hearings may be held by either the subcommittees on budget and oversight, the substantive committees, or the Committee on Appropriations. The Committee on Appropriations will not be required to hold public hearings to consider the substantive committee reports.
(Rule 9, Sections 8, 9, and 10)

Rule 12 - Amendments

24. A provision is added to allow the full house to consider, by amendment, any provision which is germane to either the committee substitute or the original bill.
(Rule 12, Section 2)

Rule 14 - Interactions with the Governor and Senate

25. Provisions are added to make the layout periods for conference committee reports in the house consistent with the layout periods for conference committee reports in the senate. In special sessions, the layout period for certain types of bills is reduced from 48 hours to 24 hours.
(Rule 14, Section 10(a) and (b))
26. A provision is added to require that conference committee reports be filed with the chief clerk for printing.
(Rule 14, Section 10(c))